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New center addresses health care for Montana's elderly

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 19, 2002

Contact: Colleen Murphy-Southwick, project director, (406) 243-2453.

NEW CENTER ADDRESSES HEALTH CARE FOR MONTANA'S ELDERLY

MISSOULA --

A new geriatric education center located at The University of Montana-Missoula is poised to help Montana's health care professionals who face an ever-increasing number of patients 65 or older, but often work without the benefit of recent information on health issues for elderly patients.

A \$1.7 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services has allowed faculty members from UM-Missoula's School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences, Montana State University-Bozeman's College of Nursing and Rocky Mountain College's Physician Assistant Program to create the Montana Geriatric Education Center, which is housed in the Skaggs Building on the UM campus.

The center offers programs for health care educators, students and practitioners. Topics range from disease prevention to disability and other health-related problems faced by older individuals and their families. The programs emphasize interdisciplinary collaboration, health promotion and attention to the cultural diversity of the populations served.

Colleen Murphy-Southwick, research associate at UM-Missoula, will direct Montana's new center.

"This center is an important development for Montana," Murphy-Southwick said. "It's

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an opportunity for UM, MSU and Rocky Mountain College to combine their specialized resources in health care training to address a serious health need. The center will help health care professionals develop or upgrade their skills in geriatrics, and provide them with the latest information in health care delivery for the elderly."

For more information, call Murphy-Southwick at (406) 243-2453.

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Local, State dailies and weeklies

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